



## **Parent/Guardian Session Letter: Youth Exceptionalities Camp**

### **Week 7: August 15<sup>th</sup>- August 19<sup>th</sup> 2022**

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Welcome to Week 7 Youth Exceptionalities Camp! My name is Kendal Williams and I am the Director of Youth Exceptionalities Camp. I am very excited to offer your child a safe, fun, and enjoyable week. We have planned many activities aimed at ensuring that your child has a wonderful camp experience! Please read the attached information carefully. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

### **Campers Coming to Camp with a Parent/Guardian**

Youth Exceptionalities Camp operates at the George Ashe Library and Community Centre within the Youth Room. Camp starts at **9:00 am** and ends at **3:15 pm** each day. The designated Pick Up/Drop Off location is at the **North Entrance** of the George Ashe Library and Community Centre. For the safety of all campers, we ask that you walk your child to the appropriate Pick Up/Drop Off location when dropping them off and return to the Pick-Up/Drop Off location to pick them up. Please ensure that you check your child in and out with me upon arrival and when being picked up. If someone else is picking up your child, please inform me in the morning. **Anyone that you have designated as an alternate pick-up person will be required to show Photo ID to camp staff prior to your child being released into their care. Please ensure that they are aware of this protocol and that your child is picked up on time.**

### **Absenteeism / Safe Arrivals**

If you know in advance that your child will be absent from camp, please send a note stating the camper's name and the date that they will be away. You can also contact me at [kwilliams@pickering.ca](mailto:kwilliams@pickering.ca). Attempts will be made to contact parents of campers who are absent without prior notification.

### **Clothing**

All campers are advised to wear comfortable clothing and are asked **not** to bring valuables to camp, as they will be responsible for their own belongings. Please label campers belongings i.e. lunch bag, extra clothing, coats etc. This helps to avoid confusion when campers misplace their belongings. Hats, sunscreen and other summer outerwear are a good idea for when we go outdoors. Campers are welcome to bring additional clothing to change into as needed, throughout the week.

### **Lunches / Snacks / Drinks**

Campers are required to bring their own peanut-free lunch with them to camp every day. We also ask that lunches are packed in non-breakable containers (no glass). Each day campers will have **two snack times and a lunch time**. Please send your child to camp with a **reusable water bottle** so they can stay hydrated throughout the day.

Please ensure that if you pack any baked goods, crackers, cookies, or muffins in a Ziploc bag or any container other than the original packaging, a note listing ingredients accompanies it to ensure full knowledge of any possible nut traces. It is recommended that campers have an extra drink and extra snacks in case they need it throughout the day.

### Allergies – Important Notice!

Please be sensitive to any food allergies that may be brought to your attention (i.e. peanut allergies that can be life threatening). For this reason, **Please do not pack peanuts, peanut products, or any products containing traces of nuts in your child’s lunches for camp.** If staff are unsure of snacks (i.e. granola bars), campers will be asked not to eat them at camp. Fruit and vegetables are always a healthy and allergy safe snack! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

The following is a list of YEC Camp theme days and special events:

**Theme: YEC’s Scientist’s**

Monday August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday August 16 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday August 17 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Friday August 19 <sup>th</sup>
<p><b>Welcome to Youth Exceptionalities Camp!</b></p> <p><b>Play Dough</b></p> <p>Campers will create their very own playdough!</p>	<p><b>Slime Day!</b></p> <p>Campers will become scientists and create their own slime.</p>	<p><b>Hot Hot Hot!</b></p> <p>Campers will create their very own lava lamps.</p>	<p><b>Candy Shop!</b></p> <p>Campers will make their very own edible rock candy!</p>	<p><b>Water Day</b></p> <p>Bring a swimsuit or change of clothes and get ready for some water fun!</p>

The following attachments will be provided to your child(ren) on the first day of camp. Please complete and return (only those applicable to your child) on the second day of camp:

1. 2022 Camp Medication Form
2. City of Pickering, Photo/Model Release Form – allows staff to take pictures for City / Camp promotions

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at [kwilliams@pickering.ca](mailto:kwilliams@pickering.ca) and (905) 420-2254 extension 6101.

Looking forward to a great week!

**Kendal Williams**

Director, Youth Exceptionalities Camp

## Rules of YEC

- Be responsible for belongings
- Be on time for all scheduled activities
- Always tell a team leader when you check in or out
- Always tell a team leader when you are going to use the bathroom
- Confine eating to lunch and snack times
- Always be courteous and cooperative
- Foul language or verbal abuse will not be tolerated
- Any form of physical fighting will not be tolerated
- Play safely and use good sportsmanship
- Always stay with your team and team leader
- Report anything wrong to staff
- Leave money and special items at home
- Wear sunscreen every day!
- Most important of all: HAVE FUN

### Things that are never okay at YEC:

- Bullying or harassment (saying mean things or hurting others), lying or not telling the truth, stealing or taking things without asking, hitting, shoving, pushing, or being mean, destroying property, possessing, using, or distributing drugs, alcohol, and/or tobacco or bringing weapons of any kind to the program. Consequences at the program: We expect that participants will demonstrate care, respect, and responsibility at all times while with us. We also expect participants to exhibit self-control, be nice to others, and follow simple instructions. If you do not follow the rules above or have difficulty with any part of these expectations, you will be asked to take responsibility for your actions, and the City of Pickering team will make every effort to match the consequence to the action. Generally speaking, we will follow this process for any inappropriate behaviors
1. You will receive immediate correction from the staff member or director, sharing both what you are not doing right and what you can do to make it right.
  2. You will receive a verbal warning and logical consequence.
  3. You will have a follow-up discussion with the director.
  4. Staff will communicate with your family and set up a meeting between the family, camper, and staff to talk about continued participation in the program.
- Removal from the program is a possibility depending on the severity and continuation of the behaviour or action.
  - The program director may decide to skip some of these steps if necessary.